



Storage and Progress on Disposal and Fuel Cycle Facilities

**Transportation and Storage Subcommittee Meeting
Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future**

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Western Governors' Association

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The Distinctive Nature of Policy for the Back End of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle



- **Not only does the general public dread highly radioactive waste, and mistrust its federal program managers, but in no other policy area do federal policies cut so differently among states and localities.**
- **Therefore, the success of this Commission's recommendations will be largely determined by the political and institutional approach for implementation—in particular the policies and processes used for its implementation in our federal system of government.**
- **Much of the experience to date has focused on the West, making it a useful resource for lessons learned.**





WGA Policy Regarding Centralized Storage of SNF/HLW



Basic provisions:

1. In the event that centralized interim storage, either private or federal, is *deemed necessary*, no such facility.....shall be located within....a Western state without the *written consent* of the governor.
2. Spent nuclear fuel should *remain at the reactor site until*:
 - A permanent storage disposal site is operational.
 - An acceptable transportation plan (working with corridor states) is implemented.
 - Adequate emergency and medical responder training and resources are ensured.
3. “Interim” storage is a misnomer without a long-term solution.





Centralized Interim Storage: A Brief History



The NWPA of 1982: “Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS)” (Subtitle C)

- Required a detailed study of need for MRS and a comparison 3 alternative sites

MRS proposed in Oak Ridge, TN (Clinch River in Roane County).

- After detailed study, the site was ultimately disapproved by the State.

The NWPA of 1987: An MRS Commission (Section 143)

- Report delivered to Congress in 1989 said that MRS was not needed

The NWPA of 1987: Nuclear Waste Negotiator (Title IV)

- Mescalero Apache in New Mexico and Owl Creek (Fremont County) Wyoming; the sites were disapproved by the states and tribes

Private Fuel Storage, in Skull Valley (UT)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs disapproved the lease for the proposed facility and Bureau of Land Management denied right-of-way access across federal lands

Result: Years of as yet unproductive assessment and contention, even with permanent disposal in prospect (though uncertain) has left us in our current state





Conclusions



Western Governors' policy resolution is based on history and experience grounded in the distinctive nature of policy for the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle

We would recommend a dramatic change in how this issue is approached from an intergovernmental standpoint taking past experiences into account





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